

Cougar Boys Basketball

A Vicenza High School makes a jump shot while an Aviano player attempts to block during Saturdays game, one of the two games between the two teams that took place this weekend at the VHS gym. Both teams were undefeated coming into the games. Aviano beat Vicenza in both games, Friday 71-31 and Saturday 85-78. Next up for the Cougars is Naples on Friday and Saturday at Naples, then Feb. 11-12 at Marymount, Rome. The European Championships will take place in Germany from Feb. 23-26. (Photo by Laura Kreider, Outlook Staff)

Getting passports for children of deployed military made easier

IMA Europe
Public Affairs

The State Department recently announced a change to procedures for obtaining passports for children under age 14 who have a military parent who is deployed.

Normally, the signature of both parents is required on passport applications for children under age 14. To deal with the unique family strains and communication difficulties that are associated with lengthy military deployments, State Department officials may now recognize and accept either:

- a properly executed power of attorney which provides the non-deployed parent the authority to obtain travel documents for the family, or
- a copy of military orders showing that the absent parent is deployed outside of his or her normal duty station for 30 days or more at a remote location.

The State Department has announced this change to all diplomatic and consular posts, and U.S. Army Europe officials have advised all military passport agents that the change is effective immediately.

For more information contact your local military passport agent.

Army to renovate barracks, improve quality of life

By Eric W Cramer
Army News Service

Soldiers living in barracks will see big improvements beginning this spring as the Army’s Installation Management Agency begins to execute a \$250 million program to identify and upgrade the Army’s most deficient barracks.

The funding was made available as a short-term fix to improve 177 barracks that were identified as “red,” or substandard under the Installation Status Report. The plan is to upgrade those facilities from red to amber within a year.

“This funding gives IMA one more way to improve quality of life for our Soldiers,” said Philip E. Sakowitz, deputy director of the Installation Management Agency. “It’s not the end of the story, of course, and our plan is to spend about \$260 million a year to sustain

barracks facilities.” Sakowitz said IMA has been steadily building and renovating barracks under a long-term \$10 billion program. In the past two years, much of that work has been done as flagship projects while units are deployed in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

“Now we can tackle the barracks that need the most attention first,” Sakowitz said.

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston said the Army’s goal is to take care of Soldiers.

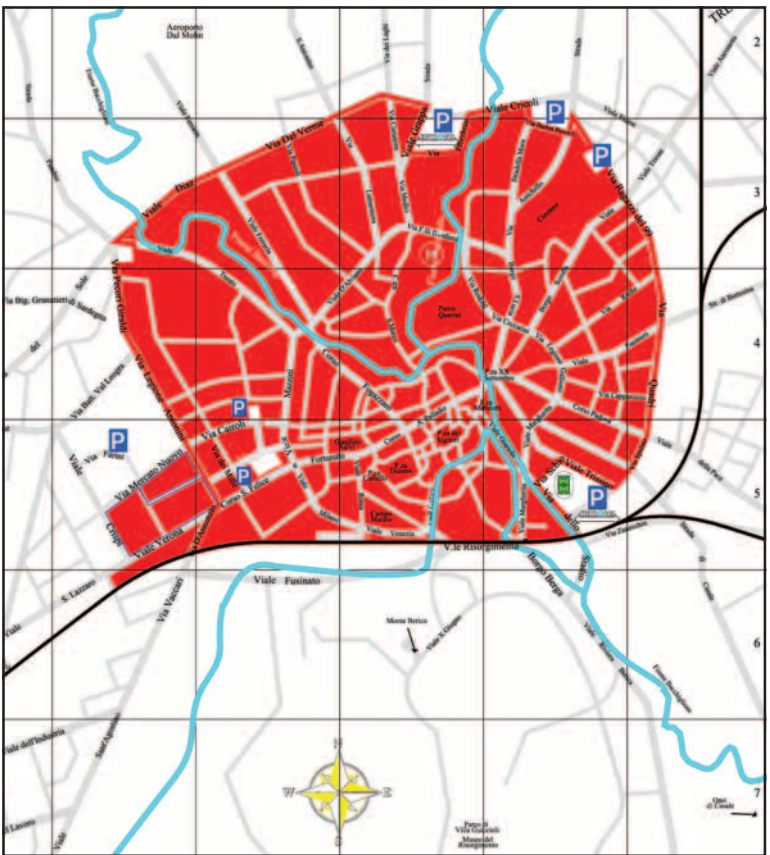
“We’re already taking good care of our Soldiers, this gives us a chance to do it better,” Preston said. “The American Soldier deserves the highest standard of living whether they’re married or single. The barracks isn’t just room and board to our single Soldiers, it’s their home.”

See Barracks on Page 5

No drive days in Vicenza

22nd Area Support Group
Public Affairs

In order to decrease pollutants, the city of Vicenza has issued a special ordinance banning all vehicle traffic in the downtown restricted traffic zone (ZTL) Feb. 2-8 from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. U.S. personnel with cover plated AFI registered vehicles are subject to the restriction, and fines begin at 71 euro. Exception to policy has been granted for medical and social service vehicles, delivery vehicles carrying perishables and pharmaceuticals, transport of the disabled or ill, marriage and funeral ceremonies and for shift workers. The ban does not apply to Italian law enforcement vehicles.



Map courtesy the City of Vicenza

Community Force Protection, Safety... *How are we doing?*

Office of the Provost Marshal 22nd Area Support Group

Automobile break-ins throughout our community continue to be a major concern for the Provost Marshal Office.

When possible, secure your vehicle behind a gated area or in a garage.

If your vehicle must remain on the street, park in a lighted and well-traveled area. Avoid parking your vehicle in alleys and desolate areas for extended periods of time, especially during the hours

of darkness.

If your vehicle is equipped with an alarm system, make sure it is activated when you secure your vehicle.

Never leave fuel coupons, money, wallets and purses, or other personal items in your vehicle.

New speed limit signs have been posted throughout our installation.

Olson Road is now 30 kilometers per hour and the speed limit in front of the school is 10 kilometers per hour.

Make note of these changes and adjust your speed accordingly.

January Statistics

- Traffic Accidents = 18 (injuries involved= 4)
- Drunk Driving = 2 (involving accidents= 2)
- Drunk & Disorderly Conduct = 8
- Assaults = 4
- Domestic Disturbances = 0
- Lost ID Cards = 32 (Repeat Offenders= 4)

Traffic Violations

- Moving Violations = 74
- Parking = 194
- Seatbelts Violations = 22
- Stop Sign Violation = 7
- Expired Insurance = 3
- No Proof of Insurance = 2
- No Driver License in Possession = 5
- No Registration in Possession = 2
- Speeding = 17
- Cell Phone Violation in a Motor Vehicle = 2

Force Protection for yourself, your family

There are some simple things to watch for during your daily routine and while at play in the community.

Be suspicious of:

- Multiple sightings of the same suspicious person, vehicle, or activity.
- Individuals who stay at bus or train stops for extended periods while buses or trains come and go.
- Individuals who order food at a restaurant and leave before the food arrives or who order without eating.
- Joggers who stand and stretch for an inordinate amount of time.
- Individuals who don't fit into the surrounding environment by wearing improper attire for the location or season.
- Individuals drawing pictures or taking notes in an area not normally of interest to a standard tourist.

If you see anyone displaying these odd behaviors, contact the military police immediately. The MPs can be reached off post at 0444-71-7114 and 114 on post.

If you have any questions about force protection, call the 22nd ASG Force Protection office at 634-8288.

Safety Countermeasure: Long weekends, extended trips

Safety Office 22nd Area Support Group

Many units on post are having long weekends and giving Soldiers an opportunity for some time away from work before deployment.

Many of you will be making extended trips to various locations in and around Italy.

Many will face totally different driving conditions depending on whether you are going north or south, to a large city or smaller town or to the coast or mountains. Here are some tips to minimize the potential for something to go wrong and spoil your weekend.

Plan your trip in advance so you don't have to rush home to pack and hit the road the same evening.

If you're tired when you start your trip, you have an excellent chance of falling asleep at the wheel.

Like alcohol, fatigue slows reaction time and impairs judgment and vision.

Being up 24 hours almost has the same effect of being legally drunk. Get a good night's rest before beginning your trip.

Also:

- Don't drive more than four hours without a break. Stopping for a few minutes is not going to cost a lot of travel time.
- Avoid alcohol or drugs, but be sure to eat something. Even small amounts of alcohol can exacerbate the effects of fatigue.
- Listen to the radio.
- Play mental games.
- Avoid driving past your normal bedtime. Late-night driving, long trips and monotonous roads can make you tired, especially if you're alone.

Wear your seat belt.

- The seat belt/shoulder strap combination practically guarantees survival at impact speeds of 50 to 60 miles per hour and will reduce chances of injury up to 90 percent.
- A person's chances of

survival are 5 to 10 times greater if he or she stays in the car during an accident.

- Approximately half of all traffic deaths occur within 25 miles of home and at speeds of 40 miles per hour or less.

Don't speed

Excessive speed continues to play a major role in traffic fatalities.

Speed involves not only exceeding the legal speed limit, but also driving too fast for any or a combination of the six conditions present in every driving situation (light, weather, road, traffic, vehicle, and driver condition). Adjust your speed accordingly.

The key to surviving any situation is having excellent situational awareness.

Know what is going on around you and take appropriate actions to adjust for any and all conditions that could cause you or your love ones to be involved in a serious accident.

Winter Driving

Here are some reminders for winning against the weather:

When planning a trip out of the local area, telephone ahead for highway and weather reports. You might be advised to carry chains to cross a mountain pass, or learn that a route is closed altogether.

Equip your vehicle for the conditions you might drive through. Don't wait until the first snowfall to install your winter or all-season tires. It's safe to assume it is going to snow this winter, just like every winter before.

Also switch to winter weight oil and winter coolant before freeze-up.

Carry survival supplies in case you get stuck. Warm clothing, boots, gloves, quick energy food, matches and a candle are the minimum to carry in your vehicle in all seasons.

Community Action Council

If you have an issue that you would like to submit, e-mail your issue to CAC@setaf.army.mil or call 634-5222 or 0444-71-5222 from off post. This forum is to discuss issues that affect the community.

Childcare is offered during the CAC at \$2.50 per hour, per child for children ages 6 weeks through kindergarten from 8:45-11:15 a.m. Pre-registration is required.

Children will be cared for in the Child Development Center, Building 395. Children must be registered with Child and Youth Services. Contact CYS Central Registration at 634-7219 or stop by their new location in Davis Hall.

The next CAC is Feb. 23 at 9 a.m. in the Ederle Theater.

Issue: *Why does the library need to be closed on Mondays?*

Response from Directorate of Community Activities: We appreciate your concern, which is shared by other community members. This is a challenge we are very much aware of.

Current staffing is the main reason behind the limited hours. Baseline Army standards dictate six full-time employees are a minimum for a facility of our size. We have been classified as a medium-size library. This classification means that we should be open 55 hours.

Our current staffing patterns (combination of Italian workers and U.S. ID cardholders) maximize our library hours at 54 hours.

We are lacking a part-time position; presently, there are 5½ full-time employees on board with a recruitment action for another part-time employee ongoing. Filling this position will bring us back to the minimum staffing standard but is still woefully inadequate.

We have requested from our higher headquarters (Installation Management Agency-Europe) three full-time positions to expand our hours of operation and days of operation. If funding is available, we will open on Monday and expand our hours of operation each day.

Topic: *What is the possibility of setting up carpooling on post?*

Response from DCA: Army Community Service purchased a "Share a Ride" bulletin board. The board is located in the reception area of Army Community Service, inside Davis Hall.

Community members who wish to carpool may post a notice on the board. Any ACS staff member can assist with posting customer information.

Issue: *I am reside off-post in private rental. The government provided me with a washer and dryer. However, there is not enough voltage to run the dryer. I took the inquiry to Housing and I was informed that I would have to pay for the upgrade in the voltage. I don't make the appliances that we get issued so why do I have to incur an expense to change the voltage? The government or the landlord needs to pick up the cost not the tenant.*

Response from Directorate of Public Works: Residents need to know that independent of the power coming into the residence at the meter (3.5kw, 4.5kw or 6kw),

each line feeding one or more electrical outlets and protected by a 16 amp circuit breaker can only handle up to a maximum of 3.5kw.

Therefore, a washer and dryer running on the same line, at the same time, will exceed the capacity of the line and trip the circuit breaker. To run both appliances simultaneously a second line is needed.

The cost modify the electrical system can run up to 200 Euro.

This cost to run a second line will not be borne by the government. Private rental customers are given a one-time Move In Housing Allowance (MIHA) of \$616 for move-in expenses to be used at the private rental resident's own discretion.

Also private rental residents receive a generous monthly utility allowance of \$528 for unaccompanied soldiers, and \$704 for accompanied soldiers, which is consistent whether you are an E-1 or and E-6. Customers desiring to have their power upgraded should contact the Housing Office for assistance in coordinating with your landlord.

Topic: *I would like to make a suggestion to put a cover if possible in the back of the post office where packages are being picked up to keep them from getting wet when is raining.*

Response from DPW: Projects have been programmed to provide for the temporary cover for the storage connexs, as well as a building addition to provide a permanent solution for storage for the CMR. However, funding for these two projects is not anticipated this year.

Topic: Because of the long lines during lunch, is it possible to stagger the lunch hour

for soldiers?

Response from Directorate of Logistics: With the new serving lines installed and operational the flow of customers will be streamlined and should elevate the waiting time. The dining facility is now offering three serving lines for breakfast, two serving lines for the main line for lunch to include a short order line as well.

Constant training is ongoing for the food service personnel (working with the new equipment) to increase the customer service and shorten the waiting time by offering multiple serving lines and faster service. Look forward to improved customer service.

Topic: *I would like to see a rotation on Sunday mornings church services that can be rotated once or twice a month and not be held the same time every Sunday. For example, some of the people who attend an earlier service would like to go later sometime.*

Response from the 22nd ASG Chaplain: One thing we strive for in service to the Ederle Community is consistency and excellence in service. As a result, Worship Service times are set, advertised, and maintained so our congregants are aware and can plan for attendance at specific times, and be assured that what is advertised at a certain time will take place.

Moving a service, even occasionally, would not allow consistency in service to the community. There are also a variety of services offered throughout the year at different times and places and the community is invited and welcome to attend any service at any time.

Therefore, maintaining a set schedule of services best serves the needs of the community at this time.

Tax Time

Vicenza Tax Center here to assist in filing state, federal taxes

By Mark Christensen
Chief of Client Services, OSJA

The Vicenza Tax Center opened on January 18, and since then hundreds of federal and state returns have been electronically prepared and filed.

Many filers are realizing large refunds, mostly due to eligibility for the Earned Income Tax Credit.

All are reminded of the following to insure the preparation of your return is completed without delay:

First, bring all your tax documents with you when you go to the Tax Center. Many are still arriving without bank deposit information for their refund.

To get a direct deposit of your refund, you must provide your bank’s nine-digit routing number and your account number.

Second, be sure all your information is accurate. Most rejected returns are due to incorrect names or numbers. Confirm the Social Security names and numbers of all family members, including children and wives who changed names due to marriage or divorce.

If you get a large refund each year, you might consider changing your withholdings and increase your monthly income.

Some tax filers are getting over \$8,000 in refunds, representing a third of their annual income. If you reduce your withholdings on your W-4 through your MyPay account, you can get and use that money each month, rather than giving the IRS an interest-free loan on your money.

Finally, we already have been contacted by personnel who had their returns completed by a commercial tax preparer in the Vicenza area.

Some have come to us to correct erroneous returns completed by the commercial preparer, and some are dissatisfied with the

up to \$250 they were charged to have their return completed.

The Vicenza Tax Center charges no fees, and if you are due a refund you will normally get it two Fridays after we transmit your return to the IRS.

If you pay someone to speed up your refund, you are paying up to 100 percent interest on what is simply a short-term loan on your refund.

Carefully consider whether the fees charged are what you need, and use our free professional services.

The Vicenza Tax Center is open for walk-in services Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Appointments are available for individuals with complicated returns (those with foreign, business, rental property, and stock sale income or loss) by calling 634.7041.

Top 10 ways to avoid Income Tax problems during deployment

The New Year has brought the renewal of another constant – taxes. Here are my top 10 ways to avoid state and federal income tax problems while deployed:

Number 10: Anticipate and use wisely the non-taxable income you will receive while deployed by increasing savings (especially by using the Army’s Savings Deposit Program) or paying off high-interest debt obligations.

Number 9: If eligible for student loan repayment under your enlistment contract, keep track of payments made during your deployment. Those payments will not be taxable if made while you are in a combat zone

Number 8: Reenlist while in a combat zone. Bonuses paid while you are in a combat zone are not taxable.

Number 7: If you always seem to receive a large refund

when you file your return, use MyPay to change your exemptions. By lowering your refund, you put more money into your pocket each month without giving the IRS an interest-free loan.

Number 6: Be sure you have all your tax documents in one location, including the following: Social Security Cards; W-2s; 1099s; Child care receipts; Prior year tax returns; and any other tax documents you have.

Number 5: If you or your spouse received foreign earned income (income paid in euros or by a private company overseas), make sure that information is presented to your tax preparer. You elect to either (1) get credit for any foreign taxes paid, or (2) exclude from taxable income the first \$80,000 of foreign earned income, whichever most benefits you.

Number 4: Carefully compile and maintain records and prepare Schedule C (self-employment income) or Schedule E (rental real estate income), showing all income, deductions, and expenses.

Number 3: Make sure you have your bank’s routing number and your account number so your refund will be quickly and safely directly deposited into your account.

Number 2: Have someone else file your return for you while you are deployed, using a general or special power of attorney, or IRS Form 2848.

And the Number 1 way to avoid tax problems while deployed is to: File your return before you deploy! SETAF Tax Centers is open. Get your tax documents together and get your return filed before you leave!

Editor’s Note: Mark Christensen is the Chief of Client Services at the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate. He has prepared thousands of returns, managed 11 Army Tax Centers, and is licensed to practice before the U.S. Tax Court.

ACS looking for families willing to support EPC program

By Jennifer Navarro-Smith
Emergency Placement Care program

Being part of a military community is a unique experience in itself. World events have once again impacted our lives more directly than in the past. The mixed emotions involved with the close return and departure of our Soldiers become more and more real as these dates draw near. Family support is critical and essential during times like these.

The reintegration of our returning Soldiers into the community and the next deployment of our Soldiers is a concern unique to military life. This may be a hard time for our families in dealing with the issues that are involved in the separation and reintegration of the Soldiers. Fortunately, support services are available

to help from the various organizations on post.

Each family carries its own dynamics and convictions; military or not. It is a reality that even military families encounter situations requiring intervention from someone other than a friend or family member. Military or not, some families find themselves in circumstances in which the parents or relatives are unable to maintain care for their children in their own home. An abused or neglected child, or one at extreme risk of abuse or neglect cannot remain in such a setting. But where do they go?

The objective of the Emergency Placement Care program is to identify, screen, and certify EPC parents who will provide temporary care for children in these emergency situations. The duration of EPC is as little as 24-hours and cannot exceed 90 days.

Within the Vicenza military community, there is one certified family currently accessible for such emergency cases so far. There is a need for more participants in order to ensure the safety of these children. The EPC program needs more participants in order to be able to match the child’s needs to what the emergency placement

care provider can offer. With a limited amount of homes available, the ideal placements are not guaranteed to the child. Our children deserve the opportunity to be placed in a safe and loving home; one that will offer what he or she needs during their time of family crisis. The need for EPC parents is great.

If you are interested in becoming an EPC parent, or would like more information, contact Jennifer Navarro-Smith, EPC coordinator, at 634-7314 or Christine Kilbride, Family Advocacy Program manager, at 634-7489.

Vicenza community retirement ceremony

The Vicenza military community retirement ceremony was held Thursday in the Caserma Ederle Theater. Capt. Marvin Holland, Sgt. Maj. Stephen Tavares and Sgt. 1st Class Gerald Bridgewater all retired at the ceremony and were presented with awards. (Photo by Paolo Bovo, 7th ATC Photo Lab)

The Outlook

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Don't know what to do with all that stuff you're clearing out before deploying?

Disposal made easy with post Eco-Center

By **Andricka Hammonds**
Outlook Volunteer

Confused about what to do with your trash? The post Eco-Center can help. The Eco-Center is located behind the Ederle Inn. Normal operating hours are from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and now the Eco-Center is open on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

This Eco-Center is similar to Eco-Centers (Ecocentro) that can be found in off-post communities. It is open to all post personnel from military to local nationals at no charge. So whether it's recycled goods, left over trash after recycling, household goods from PCSing, preparing for deployment, or just spring-cleaning, most items may be brought to the Eco-Center for easy disposal.

"Here, we don't charge anybody anything, so almost anything you want to drop off, can be brought here," explains Greg Vallery, chief, Environmental Office. "If you can get it here we can take it."

Some items, such as hazardous items, must be taken to the Eco-Center for disposal. These items include: batteries, fuels solvents, greases, cleaners, paints, antifreeze, oils, pesticides, herbicides, medicines, toner cartridges, and appliances (air conditioners, televisions, refrigerators, microwaves, washer, etc.)

Common items that must be brought to an Eco-Center instead of being dumped in the trash include: furniture and larger household items, grass clippings and leaves, and scrap items such as: wood, metal, electronics, plastics, glass, tires, etc.

If you live off-post and can't find where or how to get rid of your trash, the Eco-Center is a good place to start. Although the Eco-Center is a great place to dump bulky items, it is also a place where you can bring your refuse.

Upon arrival, trash should already be separated. Then, just drop each item separately in its respective recycle bin. On post the bin color may be different from those who live off post but most are generally the same shape.

To make it easier at the dumpsite for recycled goods, have your kitchen set up so recycling becomes second nature. One option is to designate different trash bins for each recycling category. Then, color code or label your trash bins if necessary.

This way when it's time to take the trash out, simply gather your bags and head down to the Eco-Center on post or the nearest recycling bins.

When placing your wastes in their respective containers, be sure that each item is clean and rinsed out. If containers are full, do not place wastes on the ground next to containers, as the trash collector will not pick them up. Instead, find another container on post to dispose of the items.

Waste and recycling containers can be found all over post and are also located at the Eco-Center. The post has

designed disposal locations creating Eco-Islands, which contain each recycling container and waste disposal bins. These islands make it easy to recycle when dumping trash, since the recycling bins are conveniently located with the trash bins.

Recycling not only keeps you in compliance with the law, it also helps save the environment, and keeps cost of waste disposal down for the community.

If you have any questions about what to do with a waste item or want more information please contact Vallery at eco@setaf.army.mil, stop by the Eco-Center or call 634-7166.

If you live off post and want information about trash disposal and recycling in your community, call housing at 634-8283/8574.



Clearing out the garage, barracks room?

Don't set stuff by the garbage can, bring it to the Caserma Ederle Eco-Center behind the Ederle Inn. The center is open weekdays from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Bulky items, some hazardous items such as batteries, and all other recyclables can be brought to the Eco-Center.

A guide to: Recycling



Paper products

Paper and small cardboard must be flattened and placed into the white (or sometimes green) cubical containers. Only paper bags may be placed in the containers with paper. No plastic bags.



Large Cardboard products

Cardboard must be flattened and placed into the cardboard bin. No other material can go into the bin. No styrofoam. Cardboard only.

Plastics

Plastic items labeled as Class 1 (PET), Class 2 (HDPE/PE), Class 3 (PVC), or Class 4 (LDPE) must be placed in the blue bins. Plastic bags are allowed. No items that are Class 5 (PP), Class 6 (PS), Class 7 (other) or any other plastics such as styrofoam are allowed.



Glass and metal

Glass bottles and metal cans must go together in green or gray cylindrical "bells." No plastic or paper bags may be placed in the containers.

Recycle – It's the Law.

Through no items on the ground.

All recyclable materials (empty and clean) must be recycled and placed in the proper bin.

All cardboard boxes must be broken down and flattened.

Furniture, bulky items, electronics, batteries, refrigerators, lawn clippings and waste, and must go to the Eco-Center; not in any waste container.

All hazardous items and liquid waste must go to the Eco-Center. Nothing on the ground.

Questions? Email the Environmental Office at ECO@setaf.army.mil



Organic or Humid wastes

Food scraps and pet litter (organics) should be placed in the brown bins. Plastic bags must be used to keep containers clean and reduce odors. To obtain a key please contact Self-Help or EMO at ECO@setaf.army.mil



Dry Waste

Most other "household" dry waste items are placed in the large green bins and should be bagged. No liquid waste.

Options for pet care of Soldiers who are deploying

**Provided by the
Veterinary Treatment Facility**

1. Find a friend or family who is local and can provide foster care during your absence.
2. Contact foster pet organizations. One listed on the Internet for military personnel is <https://www.netpets.org/netp/foster.php>.
3. Contract with a local kennel for care during your absence. There are several in the area but can cost 14 euro per day.
4. Arrange for the pet to return to the U.S. to stay with friends or family. There are several ways to return your pet to the U.S.
 - a. You can take your pet back before you deploy.
 - b. Family or a friend can transport the pet with them to the states.
 - c. You can arrange for travel with a pet

transportation companies or the airlines. One listed on the Internet is <http://www.pettravel.com>.

5. Adopt your pet to a responsible and caring family.

How the Veterinary Treatment Facility can help.

1. We can provide assistance for authorization of your pet’s care during your absence or transfer of records and ownership if necessary. You are ultimately responsible for any payment and should make arrangements with your pet’s care provider prior to deploying.
2. The VTF can issue a health certificate and permanent identification required for return to the U.S.
3. The Veterinary Clinic will keep a list of anyone volunteering to foster pets for deployed Soldiers.
4. The Veterinary Clinic provides a list of local kennels.

Sharks qualify for European Championship

By Tom Buffington
Special to the Outlook

The Vicenza Mako Shark's hosted it's final home swim meet of the season on Jan. 9 at the Caserma Ederle Pool.

Teams from Naples, Aviano and Vicenza competed for team awards, but with only a few meets left before the European championships, individual times were critical for qualification.

The Mako Sharks achieved outstanding results in both areas. As a team, the 43 swimmers from Vicenza, ranging in age from 6 to 18, finished second behind powerhouse Naples.

All the relay teams swam great races, and individual time improvements were key to the team's success.

Individually, nearly every

swimmer improved their times, most achieving new personal records.

Three swimmers, Bailey Butler 50 meter Breaststroke, Carmen Catena, 50 meter Freestyle, and Rebecca Febbo 50 meter Freestyle, achieved qualifying times to compete in the European Championships.

They join 13 other Mako Sharks already qualified. Two swimmers already qualified in one event, earned qualification times in additional events. They were Bryan Febbo, 100 meter Individual Medley and 100 meter Freestyle, and D.J. Schendal 200 meter Individual Medley and 50 meter Fly.

The swimmers with the most improved times at the meet were Alesha Hiles, who improved 7.84 seconds in 100 meter Freestyle,

and Kyle McCann, who improved 4.26 seconds in 100 meter Freestyle.

The Mako Sharks traveled to Rota Spain Jan. 15-17 where the team competed against Rota, Naples and Lakenheath.

Febbo qualified in the 50 meter Freestyle for championships.

The final team meet was the Southern European Divisional Championships in Naples Jan. 30.

The Mako Sharks look to qualify a few more swimmers in a few more events for the European Championships scheduled Feb. 19-20 in Munich.

The team wants to thank all the coaches, meet volunteers, the pool and gym staff, parents and fans for their support of all the home events. Without you, the team and individual swimmers would not be having such a great season.

Soldiers wishing to change their tours from Unaccompanied to With Dependents

To start the process of changing to a With Dependents tour, the Soldier must visit his or her unit Retention NCO, who determines if the Soldier has enough time in service remaining to meet the DEROS date adjustment, and if required, executes an extension of the Soldier’s ETS date.

The next step is for the Soldier to visit his or her unit S1 Personnel Administration Center to request a “Change of Tour,” and apply for Command Sponsorship of their family members.

Once these two actions are approved, family members can relocate to the sponsor’s duty location in Europe.

There are a number of steps in the application for Command Sponsorship and the process can be lengthy, so visit your unit PAC to acquire an application or for more information on the process.

Verona Sub-Community officially closes

Jim Simpson and Silvio Perede sign the official documents turning over the Verona Sub-Community property from the American to the Italian Government on Jan. 14. Behind is William Murphy, former operations officer of the base. The base opened in 1956 as an elementary School and has served as a school, logistics, and recreation support site/social center for U.S. and NATO servicemembers who resided in the greater Verona area over the past 48 years. (Photo by Michele Lo Verde)

Barracks from Page 1

George Lloyd, a strategic planner for Unaccompanied Personnel Housing, said the Army has identified 177 barracks buildings that require changes. He uses the medical term “triage” in which the most serious cases are treated first.

“We’ll be working on those facilities that need the most work beginning in April 2005, and hope to finish up by September 2006,” Lloyd said.

He said the Army has allotted about \$250 million a year, above its normal building and maintenance budget, to the improvement program.

During the renovation process, some Soldiers will be moved out of barracks and off post. Those most likely to be affected during the renovations are “geographic bachelors” – Soldiers at locations remote from their families.

Lloyd said some junior enlisted Soldiers may also be authorized Basic Allowance for Housing while renovations of their barracks are under way.

“We’ve identified about 20,000 individual Soldiers’ units we feel are critical, or ‘red,’” Lloyd said. “Our goal is to make them more liveable, get them to ‘amber’ and then renovate to meet the 1+1 standard that is our goal.” He said the 1+1 standard will provide a home-like atmosphere for Soldiers in the barracks environment.

The 1+1 standard provides a two-bedroom module fore every two junior enlisted Soldiers, and each noncommissioned officer is assigned individually to a two-room module,” Lloyd said. “We haven’t achieved that standard Army-wide yet.”

He said the Army has finished about \$6 billion of a scheduled \$10 billion in improvements to reach the 1+1 standard.

Krav Maga



Youth Services members follow the instructors directions during their Krav Maga class at Youth Services on Jan. 21. A Krav Maga demonstration and class was offered to YS by Lt. Davide Giorcelli, chief, Security Patrol, and two Master Teacher Instructors Paolo Ghionzoli and Giacomo Taddei from TAO Village, Livorno.

“I am sure once the kids will see this demonstration they will want to continue practicing Krav Maga. This is a real, simple, fast, and effective self defense technique for men, women, and children,” said Giorcelli.

Below: Instructors show defense techniques during the class. (Photos by Chiara Mattirolò, Camp Darby Public Affairs)



Out & About



By Dorothy Spagnuolo

2006 Winter Olympics ticket sales

If you didn't purchase tickets for the 2006 Winter Olympics scheduled for Torino, Italy, another opportunity will be available beginning Feb. 10. Between Feb. 10 and Nov. 10, anyone may purchase tickets, subject to event availability and all remaining tickets will be sold first come, first served. However, if you bought your tickets during the first open ticket sales, you can beat the crowd and add to your order Feb. 3-9. For details, visit the Web site: www.torino2006.org.

Carnevale time

In most cities on Sunday you will find squares and streets full of children and adults wearing masks, symbolic floats reproducing traditional masks or sceneries and people on parade.

When you join in the fun, you

may be the spectator or object of practical jokes, as the Italians say: *A Carnevale ogni scherzo vale*, At Carnival time, every prank is fair.

Below are a few of the carnevale events taking place in and around the local area:

Vicenza: Sunday in Piazza dei Signori events start at 2:30 p.m.

Camisano: Sunday in the main streets of town the parade starts at 2:30 p.m.

Bassano: Saturday from 9-11 p.m. is a night time parade of floats. Sunday at 2:30 p.m. is a float parade. Also find musical entertainment and make-up artists.

Malo: Sunday activities start at 1:30 p.m. in the town's center; at 2 p.m. starts the float parade; 7 p.m. food stands open and their is dancing in the evening. Feb. 8, the last day of carnevale, there is a float parade at 2 p.m.

Schio: Sunday at 2 p.m. starts the

float parade led by the Schio City Band and the popular majorettes from the town of Malo.

Verona: Sunday at 2 p.m. starts the carnevale activities in Piazza Bra'.

Padova: One of the most important events takes place in the town of Casale di Scodosia, the province of Padova. For three days, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, in the afternoon hours, the town hosts fanciful and colorful floats, reproducing the main events of the past year. For this 57th edition, called *Carnevale del Veneto*, beside the traditional floats and the throwing of sweets, find a luna park, carnival market, street paintings, folk dances and food stands.

Exhibitions

At the Verona exhibition grounds from Saturday through Feb. 13 enjoy the 3rd Luxury & Yachts show.

Find everything from luxury yachts and cars to fishing rods and jewelry. Open weekdays from 2:30-7 p.m., weekends from 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Entrance fee is 18 euro.

Padova: At the exhibition *E Sposi*, Getting Married, find or get idea's for an upcoming wedding. Open Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Entrance fee is 8 euro.

Milan: Looking for furniture, paintings or maybe a fruit bowl for your house – dolls house that is. For the first time in Italy an exhibition *Miniaturitalia*, dolls house and miniatures show, will be held in the Michelangelo Hotel, which is located on the left side of Milan's Central Railway station. The dealers present, amongst others, will be from Belgium, England, Germany, and Spain. There will also be a dealer from America who will have a large variety of miniature teddy bears. For full details on dealers, times, tickets and location, visit www.miniaturitalia.it

Rugby

Italy plays Ireland at the Stadio Flaminio in Rome Sunday at 3:30 p.m. The annual Six Nations Championship is the oldest rugby tournament in the world, having existed in one form or another for 120 years. Initially the international championship was between England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales. The competition has expanded twice with France joining the in 1910 and Italy being the most recent addition in 2000.

Tickets available from www.ticketone.it.

Aquarium in Genova

The aquarium in Genova is one of Europe's largest aquariums and amongst Italy's most popular cultural attractions.

To see all the tanks that are set up, a 9,400 square meters area, will take you at least two hours or much longer if you're with a small child who can't get over the sharks.

The aquarium itself, which opened it's doors in 1993, is the work of architects American Peter Chermayeff and Italian Renzo Piano.

The last admittance each day is two and a half hours before closing time.

Now Showing

Caserma Ederle Theater

Feb. 2	Spongebob Squarepants (PG)	7 p.m.
Feb. 3	Seed of Chucky (PG)	7 p.m.
Feb. 4	Ocean Twelve (PG13)	7 p.m.
	Alexander (R)	10 p.m.
Feb. 5	Ocean Twelve (PG13)	2 p.m.
	Limony Snickets (PG)	7 p.m.
	Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason (R)	10 p.m.
Feb. 6	Limony Snickets (PG)	2 p.m.
	Ocean Twelve (PG13)	7 p.m.
Feb. 9	Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason (R)	7 p.m.
Feb. 10	Alexander (R)	7 p.m.

Camp Darby Theater

Feb. 4	Woman Thou Art Loosed (R)	7 p.m.
Feb. 5	Closer (R)	7 p.m.

Movie Synopsis

LEMONY SNICKETS - *Jim Carrey, Timothy Spall* - Violet, Klaus and Sunny Baudelaire are three intelligent young children who receive terrible news that their parents have died in a fire and have left them an enormous fortune not to be used until the eldest child is of age. They are taken in by a series of odd relatives and other people, including Lemony Snicket, who narrates the film, and the cunning and dastardly Count Olaf who is plotting to kill them and snatch their inheritance from them.

OCEAN'S TWELVE - *George Clooney, Brad Pitt* - Danny Ocean and his crew, having successfully stolen \$150 million Las Vegas casinos in the first film, jet to Europe with three new heists planned, including swiping Rembrandt's Nightwatch from a gallery in Amsterdam. Meanwhile, casino owner Terry Benedict, whom Ocean and crew ripped off in Las Vegas, is hot on their tail, looking for revenge.

ALEXANDER - *Collin Farrell, Angelina Jolie* - By the age of 32, Alexander the Great had amassed the greatest empire the world had ever seen. In between, his life was marked by a tumultuous relationship with his parents who were determined to put their child on the throne at any cost, including murder. Alexander also bonded with his closest companions and led a vast army, as they fought from the sun-scorched battlefields of the Persian Empire across the snow-peaked mountains of India. The film chronicles his journey from his youth to his lonely and mysterious death as a ruler of a vast state of Macedonia.

WOMAN THOU ART LOOSED - *Kimberly Elise, Loretta Devine* - Based on of Bishop T.D. Jakes' self-help novel, Michelle Jordan grows up in an environment of abuse and molestation by the hands of her mother's boyfriend; while her mother looks the other way. These circumstances lead young Michelle into the dark abyss of drugs, prostitution and prison. While incarcerated, she sends Bishop Jakes a letter seeking a visit. With the prodding of her mother, Jakes visits Michelle and through a series of flashbacks he uncovers the dark past that has lead to Michelle's drug abuse, association with abusive men and finally murder. Jakes gets Michelle an early furlough with one stipulation, that she attends his upcoming three-day revival. Still bitter and distrusting of the church community, her mother in particular, Michelle is forced to do some soul-searching that takes her on a journey to recovery and resolve.

BRIDGET JONES: THE EDGE OF REASON - *Renée Zellweger, Colin Firth* - Six weeks after the events in Bridget Jones's Diary, erstwhile London singleton Bridget Jones is still happily dating human-rights lawyer Mark Darcy. But eventually she starts to notice his flaws and begins wondering if he isn't interested in his new co-worker. Bridget's love life is further complicated when her former boss and flame Daniel Cleaver arrives on the scene, having landed a job at Bridget's TV station.

Admission: Adults age 12 and over \$4, children \$2.
The Ederle Theatre box office opens one hour prior to show time.
Tickets to blockbuster shows are presold at Baskin Robbins.



A Soldier checks out available equipment and supplies at the Vicenza Military Clothing Sales Store.

Deployment Central in AAFES facilites

Story and photo by AAFES

News Release

In Vicenza, AAFES has set up Deployment Central in the main exchange, Shoppette and Military Clothing Sales Store. At the main store this will be a one stop information center. Starting in February, AAFES will have employees available at this station during peak hours so they can assist with making plans for Soldiers and their families to have an event free deployment.

They will have a pamphlet with valuable information about AAFES facilities in Afghanistan: Tactical Field exchange stock assortments, Star card for the deployment service member, AAFES gift card, 550 AT&T phone card, AAFES web site for information downrange, local information about Layaways, cell phone recharges while you are gone, and barber and beauty shops.

The deployment shopping will be adjacent to deployment central and will have items traditionally associated with deployments such as toiletries, socks, camping aids and other items that Soldiers may want to consider bringing with them.

AAFES has also developed a deployment calendar, which includes special events and promotions in their retail and food facilities.

Beginning Feb. 4 through March, the Vicenza main store will extend shopping hours to 9 p.m. on Tuesdays and Fridays.

MCSS is now open Saturdays from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and the Shoppette will remain open 24 hours during deployment.

Directions by car: Exit the autostrada at Genova Ovest (west) and follow the signs for *Acquario*. From Florence it's about a two hour drive.

For opening times, check out their Website www.acquario.ge.it.

The ticketing is sold by time slots every half-an-hour to keep the aquarium from becoming jam packed. The visit begins with an optional 10-minute documentary. Tickets cost 13 euro.

There is a parking area outside the aquarium but it holds only 155 cars.

Ice-skating rinks

In Padova, the ice-skating rink is located in the *Natatorio Plebiscito* building, west of Padova, and is open everyday from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.; 2 to 7 p.m. and 9 p.m.-midnight until March 15.

Entrance fee: 5 euro weekdays; 7 euro weekends. Skate rental is 3 euro.

The ice-skating rink in Asiago, located 55 km north of Vicenza, is open weekends from 10 a.m.-noon and 3:30-5:30 p.m. Entrance fee: 4,50 euro, skate rental is 3,50 euro.

Paris, London, Barcelona

Affordable ways available for traveling through Europe

Story and photos by Diana Bahr
22nd ASG Public Affairs

One of the perks of living abroad is gleefully saying to family and friends in the states, “Anything you’d like from Paris? We’re going there for the weekend.”

Thanks to budget airlines like Ryan Air and Easy Jet, weekend jaunts to London, Paris, Munich, Barcelona and other cities can be an inexpensive way to join the jet-set.

But there are pros and cons to flying cheap, budget airlines usually require flying into a remote airport and taking a shuttle bus or train into town. Plus, the airline may only have one flight daily to your chosen destination.

But savvy and determined travelers can use the Internet not only to book inexpensive airfares, but to find out how to navigate transportation to and from the airport, parking, hotel rooms, city tours and more.

So how do you manage to find bargains? Check airline’s Web sites often as the truly good deals come and go quickly. But sometimes, the later you make your plans, the cheaper the seats. Also, being flexible with your dates, times, and airports to fly out of helps.

For example, my husband and I decided to spend the four-day Thanksgiving weekend in Paris. We began checking rates in mid-October and, by cutting our trip by a day, snagged roundtrip tickets for the two of us for a total of 114 euro.

We left late Wednesday night and came back late Saturday night. However, we had to fly out of Milan Bergamo (Orio al Serio) airport and fly into Paris Beauvais. This meant an hour and a half (minimum) drive to the airport. Then it was 8.50 euro a day to park, plus autostrada fees of about 20 euro roundtrip.

Roundtrip tickets on the Beauvais shuttle cost 20 euro each. So far, our ‘cheap’ trip was running us about \$275...and we hadn’t found a hotel room yet.

But compare this to prices we found on Expedia: Roundtrip airfare for two to Paris Charles de Gaulle airport:



Built in 1889 by Gustave Eiffel, this now-famous Paris landmark was originally scorned by the public. Today, almost 6 million visitors a year flock to the Eiffel Tower.

\$278. Parking at Venice Marco Polo airport at 8 euro per day and autostrada tolls of about 7 euro. Plus we still have to get from Charles de Gaulle into Paris at a cost of 20 Euro roundtrip each. Cost: \$390 – not including a hotel. All we’re saving is about half an hour of drive time to the airport in Venice (if traffic in Mestre is good) and half an hour traveling from the airport in France to Paris.

Veteran budget flyers, Melanie Fatuesi and Marcia Scheppele, both of whom work at Vicenza Elementary School, have budget flying down to a science.

“We’ve learned from experience not to check bags on the flight out,” said Scheppele. “My sister and I flew from Venice Treviso to Frankfurt via Ryan Air and then we were taking a Ryan Air flight the next day from Frankfurt to Gotenburg, Sweden. My luggage got to Frankfurt, but when I checked it the next day, my luggage had been sent back to Treviso. We had plans to go from Gotenburg to Oslo to Bergen. It took four days, numerous phone calls and a trip to the airport in Bergen to be reunited with my luggage.

“And then I had to write a letter to Ryan Air complaining about being without my luggage for four days,” said Scheppele. “All I got for my trouble was 19 euro.”

Other travel tips include not going over the weight limit – something many people don’t understand.

“The budget airlines are really strict about weight limits,” said Fatuesi. “The weight limit for carryon luggage is only 7 kilos; that’s about 14 pounds. If you go over the weight limit, you can expect to pay about 7 euro per kilo.”

“If you’re looking for all the benefits and customer service of a regular airline, you need to fly a major airline,” said Scheppele.

Getting to the airport early is a must. Most airlines state that you have to be there at least 40 minutes early – and they mean it.

Regardless of what you pay for travel, safety is always an issue. “We don’t wear flashy jewelry, we use hidden money belts for our passports and identification, and when one of us is getting our luggage or tickets, the other stands guard,” said Fatuesi. “We had a friend lose her cell phone and digital camera out of her backpack while she was getting her suitcase off the shuttle bus in Barcelona.”

While Expedia (www.expedia.com) offers good deals on airfare, hotel and car rental, the company doesn’t offer budget airlines.

A recent Internet search brought up a site: www.whichbudget.com. Unlike Expedia, you don’t book tickets directly from their Web site, it simply lists cities and what budget airlines serves them. At the bottom of the Web

page click on “Route Finder,” and it takes you to a list of countries and servicing airports.

But that just gets you to the airport. You still need to park at the airport, find a way into the city and find a decent hotel.

Once again, the Internet can be your personal travel agent.

The three main airports most of us fly from include: Venice Treviso – www.trevisoairport.it; Venice Marco Polo – www.veniceairport.it; Verona Valerio Catullo Airport –

www.aeroportideltgda.it (under ‘Connections’ find directions to airport and parking fees); and Milan Bergamo – www.orioaeroporto.it.

The websites all list the parking rates and maps showing long-term parking. As in the states, there are often long-term parking lots located close to the airports. Two long-term lots just a few minutes away from Venice Marco Polo airport are Brusutti and Marco Polo 2002. Both lots charge less than half what you would pay parking at the airport and have free shuttle service.

Note: Do not leave your parking ticket in your vehicle! Put it in your wallet, purse or luggage. Most airports require you to pay for your parking before you get your car. In the case of Milan Bergamo airport, it’s a long walk to the parking lot.

Using the Internet to search for decent lodgings is mind-boggling. Just a few sites folks in my office have used are:

www.itwg.com, www.venere.com, www.placestostay.com, www.hostel.com, and www.hostelworld.com.

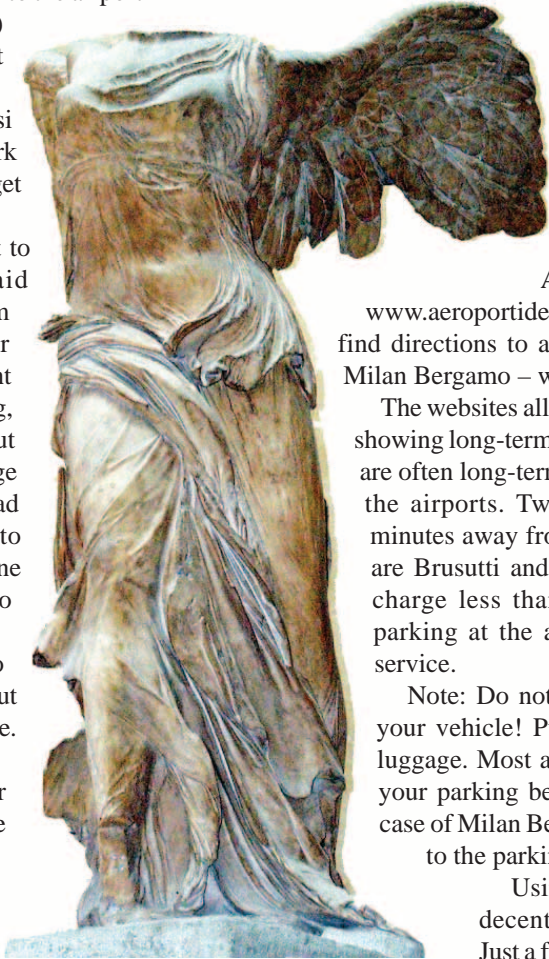
While I’ve used Expedia in the past – mostly for hotels in the states, I’ve found that Expedia is not always the cheapest way to go in Europe. For example, during our recent trip to Paris, Expedia listed the Best Western

au Trocadero for \$143, about \$25 more than we paid by booking directly through the hotel.

After several bad experiences booking hotels through the Internet, my rule is – if the hotel doesn’t have photos of its rooms online, keep searching.

“I’ve also found that, when it comes to car rental, it’s often cheaper to rent the vehicle directly from the company’s Web site,” said Scheppele.

“Budget travel is for the adventurous,” said Fatuesi. “You have to be prepared to miss flights and maybe the shuttle bus and be flexible. Ask friends and relatives who’ve been there, read travel books. Ask around for advice. There are probably people in your workplace who have been to these destinations and they’ll have some great ideas on what to see. But go – get out and explore.”



Victory of Samothrace, a Greek statue found on an island in the North Aegean Sea dates backing to 190 B.C., can be found towering over a great staircase in the center of the Louvre Museum in Paris. The Louvre is one of the top art museums in the world and also houses the famous Mona Lisa by Leonardo da Vinci. (Photo by Kelli Covlin, Outlook Editor)



The Montemarte neighborhood of Paris, located in the 18 arrondissement, was the home of many notable artists such as Van Gogh, Renoir, and Toulouse Lautrec. Nowadays, visitors who make the trek up the cobblestone streets can still find artists selling their wares.